

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An installation for manufacturing a wound rigid tubular pipe, the wound rigid tubular pipe being intended to be installed subsea by a laying ship, the installation comprising:

the laying ship;

an assembly unit operable for assembling a plurality of rigid tubes end to end to obtain tube lengths, the assembly unit being further operable for assembling the tube lengths to form a rigid tubular pipe;

a first float separate from the laying ship, the first float being positioned between the assembly unit and the laying ship;

an intermediate winding and deforming apparatus arranged on the first float, the intermediate winding and deforming apparatus being operable to plastically deform the rigid tubular pipe and to wind the rigid tubular pipe onto the intermediate winding and deforming apparatus after the rigid tubular pipe has been formed;

a connector connecting together the first float and the assembly unit such that the first float is aligned with the assembly unit, the connector including an articulated mount mounted on the first float and on the assembly unit, the articulated mount being operable to allow relative movement of the first float and the assembly unit at least in a vertical direction; and

a storage reel positioned on the laying ship, the rigid tubular pipe being wound onto the storage reel after being plastically deformed by the intermediate winding and deforming apparatus.

2. (Previously Presented) The installation according to Claim 1, wherein the intermediate winding and deforming apparatus comprises an intermediate storage reel having a first drum diameter which is greater than a second drum diameter of the storage reel of the laying ship.

3. (Previously Presented) The installation according to Claim 2, wherein the first drum diameter of the intermediate storage reel is greater than a maximum diameter of a last portion of the rigid pipe that is likely to be wound onto the storage reel of the laying ship.

4. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 1, further comprising a second float on which the assembly unit is mounted.

5. (Previously Presented) The installation according to Claim 4, wherein the second float has a length of between 40 and 120 meters along a direction between the storage reel and the intermediate winding and deforming apparatus.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The installation according to Claim [[6]] 1, wherein the connector comprises a catch that can be locked so as to obtain a removable connector.

8. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 1, wherein the connector has a lattice configuration.

9. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate winding and deforming apparatus comprises an intermediate storage reel mounted vertically on the first float, the intermediate storage reel being drivable to rotate about a horizontally-arranged axis to wind the rigid tubular pipe.

10. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 1, wherein the first float comprises a float ballast weight tank fillable to weigh down the first float according to a length of the rigid tubular pipe wound onto the intermediate winding apparatus.

11. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 1, wherein the first float

comprises a barge or a vessel with a stable hull.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a wound rigid tubular pipe, the wound rigid tubular pipe being intended to be installed subsea by a laying ship, the method comprising:

assembling a plurality of rigid tubes end to end to obtain tube lengths and assembling the tube lengths to form a rigid tubular pipe, the assembling being performed at an assembly unit;
positioning a connector to connect the assembly unit to a first float positioned between the assembly unit and the laying ship, the assembly unit being aligned with the first float after the connector is positioned;

conveying the rigid tubular pipe to the first float from the assembly unit over the connector;

plastically deforming the rigid tubular pipe and then winding the deformed rigid tubular pipe onto an intermediate storage reel at the first float ~~separate from the laying ship~~ after the rigid tubular pipe has been assembled; and

transferring the wound rigid tubular pipe from the intermediate storage reel of the first float to a storage reel positioned on the laying ship by rewinding the rigid tubular pipe onto the storage reel after the rigid tubular pipe was subjected to plastic deformation.